Andhra Pradesh—2 bridges, and

Tamil Nadu—2 bridges.

(b) and (c) Traffic was restored on all the above six locations at the earliest possible carrying out the necessary repairs. Permanent rehabilitation/rebuilding had been completed in respect of 2 bridges *v\z.,* bridge No. 616 at kms. 244/6-7 Villupuram—Mayiiaduthurai section in Tamil Nadu and bridge No. 581 on Vadodara—Ahmedabad section in Gujarat.

Dedicated freight corridor

88. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that-Railways propose to create a dedicated freight corridor between metropolitan cities with a view to improve the freight traffic;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to improve the *rail* infrastructure on the East Coast Railway to meet with the increased freight traffic as a result of certain mega steel projects coming up in the Orissa State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI- R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The feasibility study of developing Dedicated Multimodal High Axle Load Freight Corridors with Computerized Train Control System on Western and Eastern routes, has been completed. The cost of project is estimated about Rs. 21140 crores.

(c) Ministry of Railways is strengthening connectivity of Paradeep Port. The connectivity between production and consumption centers of iron ore and steel is also being improved. Some of the important projects are Banspani-Daitari new line, Haridaspur-Paradeep new line, Angui Sukinda Road new line and doubling of Mahanadi Bridge.